The Plan from the Foundation of the World: A Being in the Image of God

Upon closer examination, the Holy Scripture reveals the divine plan that foresaw the creation of a being superior to angels, made in the image and likeness of God. This is stated in Genesis 1:26-27, where God declares: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” This idea is reinforced in Romans 8:28-29, which suggests that God predetermined before creation that people would have His nature.

According to the Holy Scripture, the purpose for which man was created was to live eternally, in purity, and in deep communion with God. This communion is meant to offer man happiness, inner peace, joy, and the state of rest in which God is.

According to the biblical account in Genesis 3:10, man’s fall from Eden marked the loss of his initial state of purity and perfect harmony with God. This led to the experience of a profound sense of lack and unfulfillment.

The episode in the Garden of Eden describes how Adam, after his fall through disobedience, expresses his fear and desire to hide: “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” This significant moment highlights the emergence of fears and the feeling of vulnerability, marking the opposite of the state of inner peace and soul rest that man had before.

Since the fall from Eden, man has been engaged in a continuous search to regain the happiness and soul rest for which he was initially created. He tries to reencounter the state of happiness through various means and in different places. However, he often faces failures, managing only to taste temporary fragments of the happiness and joy he seeks.

In our daily lives, it is easy to observe through the often-heard wishes that man’s fundamental aspiration is to achieve happiness. Many eagerly await holidays, such as Easter and Christmas, because they bring a touch of happiness. We address each other with wishes like “Happy Holidays!” and “Happy New Year!”.

However, the transient things of the material world cannot offer the happiness that comes from a deep state of soul rest. Soul rest is essential for achieving well-being and satisfaction, as intended in the initial creation of man.

Just as a car reaches maximum performance when used according to the purpose for which it was designed, man also achieves a state of satisfaction and complete fulfillment when he reaches the purpose for which he was created.

Just as the body is fully satisfied when it is well-fed, clean, and rested, so too does the human soul have its own needs which, once fulfilled, bring complete fulfillment and satisfaction.

The human soul reaches fulfillment when rest, peace, and joy become normal and constant states, which can be achieved by adopting and cultivating the the values presented in the Kingdom of God, such as purity, righteousness, long-suffering, love, kindness, mercy, and gentleness.

At Adam's fall, man suffered a spiritual separation from God, thus losing access to the sources of complete fulfillment. This spiritual rupture meant a separation from the values and principles established in the heavenly Kingdom.

In this context, the human need for fulfillment was exploited by Satan, who deceived man by introducing alternatives to divine values, attracting humanity with promises and fleeting pleasures. These, although attractive, are incapable of offering the state of fulfillment and authentic satisfaction for which man was created.

Thus, humanity finds itself in a relentless and unsatisfactory search, pursuing these alternatives of Satan, thereby moving further away from the path and original purpose set by God.

In his search, he turns to things offered by the material world, such as money, fame, or "the pleasures of sin for a season", and others like them, but he finds neither happiness nor rest in these.

This situation can be likened to a car that does not function optimally when used for purposes other than those for which it was created, or to a human body that, when sick, tired, hungry, or thirsty, can no longer achieve well-being.

With the fall into sin, humanity lost the elements necessary for soul fulfillment, highlighting the need to reconnect with divine values to regain this state of fulfillment. That is why it is so important to return to the original values of the Kingdom of God and to reject the temptations and illusions promoted by Satan, to regain the state of spiritual fulfillment.

To find rest and spiritual fulfillment, it is essential to direct our searches towards our Creator, for He holds the key to inner peace, happiness, and joy. This is described in Scripture, in Luke 19:42, where it is stated: "If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes."

A genuine relationship with God is the unique path to achieving soul rest. This truth is supported by the words in the Gospel of Matthew 11:28, where the Lord Jesus says: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” and in John 14:27, where He states: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

This objective is particularly illustrated in the Epistle to the Hebrews 4:10, which states that God desires man to experience the same soul rest that He Himself has. The text says: “For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest.”

It is essential to understand that authentic and profound happiness cannot be realized without inner calm and peace. Just as our bodies need physical rest for revitalization and satisfaction, our souls also require rest to achieve happiness. The source of happiness does not lie in “the pleasures of sin for a season” but in the state of peace and soul rest, which manifests through a permanent joy.

This involves a close and personal relationship with the Creator, in which man discovers the true meaning of existence and a profound happiness, independent of the circumstances of earthly life. This includes inner peace, harmony, and soul rest, which are accessible only when man lives in accordance with the values and original purposes established by God.

God initiates and desires to collaborate with the man who realizes that the solution lies only with the Creator. In this process, He intervenes to bring man back to his original state of harmony and fulfillment. Through divine intervention, man is not only restored but also enters a process of transformation, to reach a level of spiritual development similar to that of the inhabitants of the heavenly Kingdom. This not only offers him a complete state of fulfillment, rest, and joy but also grants him the privilege of dwelling for eternity in the Kingdom of God.

It is evident that without this complete soul rest, we could not live in perfect eternal harmony. Sadness, fear, dread, or despair would disturb this rest. The heaven promised by God offers, first and foremost, rest for the soul, a place where tears and suffering will no longer be, as Revelation 21:4 says, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” This is also rendered in Psalm 23:2, “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.”

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